

## **Jack's Market in Los Angeles Loses Liquor License**

*Store Owner Caught Buying Purported Stolen Property*

**LOS ANGELES** – The State of California's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today has ordered Jack's Market at 520 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Los Angeles to surrender its liquor license. The operator of the store was caught purchasing purported stolen property that included cigarettes and alcohol during a lengthy investigation involving Los Angeles Police, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. In addition to the work by law enforcement officers, local residents have been instrumental by sending the message that they don't want crime in their neighborhoods. They want a better life for their families.

On September 29, 2005, California state regulators and local law enforcement officials (including the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles Police Department) arrested store owner Chisuk Oh and two of his employees on charges of buying stolen goods at the location, including cigarettes and alcohol.

"This collaborative effort will result in a better quality of life for the community," said Charles Porter, Prevention Coordinator of the United East Coalition Prevention Project. "We are hopeful that this owner captures this rare opportunity to offer residents fresh fruits and vegetables instead of alcohol."

The recent arrest of the store owner adds to a long list of complaints about the business. Seven years ago, law enforcement and community leaders increased the focus on holding retailers accountable for meeting legal standards on sales of alcohol, cigarettes and other merchandise. This process was bolstered by the city's nuisance abatement laws. The process was spearheaded by United Coalition East Prevention Project and led the city of Los Angeles to impose various conditions on Jack's Market, including the presence of a security guard on the premises, and changes in the store's hours of operation.

“This business showed a blatant disregard for professional operational standards, and is a clear example of how an alcohol outlet *should not* operate,” said Sergeant Rafael Ramirez, Organized Crime & Vice Division Operation ABC Coordinator, LAPD.

“We are so impressed with the hard work by the Los Angeles Police Department, the City Attorney’s Office and the local residents of the Central City East Community,” said ABC Director Jerry Jolly.” Working together with our ABC investigators this community has taken a bold step to make the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor a stronger place to live, work and play.”

Under ABC regulations, no liquor license can be issued at this location for at least a year. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency.

The United East Coalition Prevention Project (UCEPP) is a program of Social Model Recovery Systems, Inc., a private non-profit human services organization. The mission of UCEPP is to engage the most vulnerable populations of the Central City East area of Los Angeles, and to challenge systemic conditions and social disparities that threaten a healthy environment.